



Smith's Landing First Nation

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July 21, 2022

Suncor Energy Inc.
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RE: Smith's Landing First Nation Consultation on Suncor's Base Mine Extension Project

Dear Tracey Stephen,

I write on behalf of Smith's Landing First Nation (SLFN) to express our ongoing concerns about the level and quality of engagement that Suncor Energy Inc. (Suncor) is providing to SLFN for the proposed Suncor Base Mine Extension Project (Project). Thus far, the technical engagement sessions have proven to be less than meaningful with little to no consideration by Suncor of the information and concerns raised by SLFN. Below we outline SLFN's concerns about the trajectory of the technical engagement sessions with Suncor and proposed next steps.

Background Information

SLFN is a signatory of Treaty No. 8 and are the descendants of the traditional Dēnésułiné of the South Slave region. SLFN territory expands from northern Alberta, including Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP), northern Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, the Northwest Territories (NWT) and southern Nunavut. Members of SLFN hold a strong connection to their territory and continue to actively use the land, waters and resources to sustain their cultural way of life.

We, the Tthebatthi Dēnésułiné, have been sovereign since time immemorial. Together, we will continue our journey in harmony with the environment to sustain a healthy and self-sufficient lifestyle for future generations. To honour our Creator and ancestors, we will protect and nurture the integrity of our Dēné Ch'anié.

Suncor has proposed a large-scale expansion of the base mine that demonstrates clear potential to further impact the integrity of SLFN's territory and our ability to exercise our Treaty and Aboriginal rights as passed on by our ancestors for generations. We are particularly concerned about the potential cumulative downstream impacts of the Project on air quality stretching as far north as Fort Smith, NWT and the water quality and quantity of the Slave River for which the

Athabasca River drains into. Despite the scale and impact of the proposed Project, Suncor to date has not provided SLFN with a meaningful consultation process to fully understand and inform the development of the Impact Statement, nor has Suncor provided SLFN adequate support for its participation in the technical sessions. SLFN relies on technical experts to help us understand the Project's impact on our constitutionally protected Treaty and Aboriginal rights. This approach does not align with Déné Ch'anié and is disrespectful to our community and our land.

SLFN Engagement Concerns

Potentially impacted Indigenous groups have been inappropriately categorized into two tiers with SLFN being placed in a secondary tier receiving less meaningful and secondary engagement opportunities than other Indigenous groups for which Suncor has arbitrarily determined will be more impacted by the Project. Further, Suncor has engaged tier one Indigenous groups substantially earlier than SLFN as evidenced by the information contained in the Detailed Project Description regarding its engagement with SLFN's neighbors. The proposed Project has the potential to significantly impact SLFN and as such, we are entitled to be treated the same as the tier one Indigenous groups. Instead of developing the meaningful relationships needed to address our concerns, we have been invited to group technical sessions and have been given very narrow constraints both in terms of funding and requests for information. Suncor has further constrained engagement by providing a template with guiding questions intended to gather Indigenous Knowledge (IK) from SLFN.

These approaches are inconsistent with how SLFN conducts our impact assessments, but despite these barriers, SLFN technical experts provided significant input at the first technical session held in April 2022. Our review of provided materials for the second technical session scheduled for July 21st, 2022 indicate that Suncor has not meaningfully considered and incorporated the following SLFN feedback to develop the baseline monitoring program:

- Extending spatial boundary to areas north of Lake Claire including the WBNP and Slave River to Fort Fitzgerald and Fort Smith.
- Determining the magnitude and extent to which chemical emissions from current oilsands development are impacting the WBNP and Slave River.
- Understanding changes in moose and bison population dynamics in the Lower Athabasca Region (LAR).
- Characterizing the current health condition of Indigenous peoples in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo and LAR.
- Characterizing the condition and safety of ingesting traditional foods and medicines under the current state of development.
- Considering impacts to the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights of each Indigenous group within the LAR.

Suncor's initial treatment of SLFN in this process has created a situation that lacks the cultural safety needed to consider the very real impacts of the proposed project to our territory and our Treaty and Aboriginal Rights. When engaging with projects in our territory, the community has directed us to consider whether or not our Déné Ch'anié will be treasured and if our ethics and protocols will be respected. Suncor has not shown understanding or respect for our traditional knowledge, and this affects our willingness to take part in a relationship where site-specific knowledge will be shared.

As cultural safety is a key tenet of our impact assessment approach based on our Déné Ch'anié worldview, we will no longer be participating in the technical engagement process as proposed by Suncor. SLFN will provide feedback to Suncor during the assessment process exclusively through written correspondence from this point forward. As such, we request that Suncor continue to provide SLFN with the Project materials and information that will be circulated and reviewed at the engagement sessions for our review and comment. We also expect Suncor to

advise SLFN how it has considered and incorporated (or not incorporated with relevant rationale) our comments into the Impact Statement.

SLFN has significant concerns about how the proposed Project will further degrade the already impacted water and land on which we rely to continue to not only practice but restore our Dënë Ch'anié. For the remainder of this Project, our staff and technical experts will be reviewing Suncor's studies and reports to consider the impacts of the Project on the territory to address questions related to the core values of Dënë Ch'anie, such as: Will the land be healthy for our grandchildren? Can we provide for our families?

For us to answer these questions meaningfully, we require Suncor to provide adequate capacity funding for third party technical review and community engagement meetings for the remainder of the Project assessment. We trust that the above reasons are sufficient for Suncor's understanding of our position, and that we will not be expected to answer any further paternalistic questions about how SLFN can and should use such capacity funding.

Regards,

<Original signed by>

Councilor Cheyeanne Paulette

On behalf of

Chief Thaidene Paulette
Smith's Landing First Nation

Cc. Becky Kostka, Lands & Resources Manager, SLFN
Claudette Bois, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Megan McConnell, Rana Law